Swarthmore College seeks to help its students realize their full intellectual and personal potentials, combined with a deep sense of ethical and social concern. Swarthmore students will be prepared to lead full, balanced, thoughtful lives as individuals and as responsible citizens through exacting intellectual study, supplemented by civic engagement, a varied program of athletics, and other extracurricular activities. Through close mentorship with faculty and staff, and in community with peers, each student can flourish in a variety of areas. One of the central features of a liberal education is for faculty, staff, and students to discuss and revisit the aims and purposes of education itself. Therefore our goals will continue to evolve.

Our institutional goals include four main categories:

- **Breadth of Knowledge and Skills**
- **Depth of Knowledge and Skills**
- **Ethical Intelligence**
- **Personal Development and Community Interaction**

**Breadth of Knowledge and Skills**
Students will develop the analytic and expressive skills required to engage in a broad range of intellectual pursuits, and to foster a critical stance toward learning and knowing. They will develop this critical view through understanding the cultural inheritances of the past, the global societies of the present and future, and work in multiple disciplines. Their participation in a liberal education will require and strengthen sustained and deep attentiveness, disciplined and passionate curiosity, imaginativeness and creativity. Skills students will develop include the ability to create and synthesize knowledge; logical argumentation; problem solving; global competence through foreign languages and cultural perspectives; cross-disciplinary thinking; and ethical scholar practice.

**Depth of Knowledge and Skills**
Students will demonstrate a depth of knowledge and mastery of skills through the core methodologies and competencies of the majors and minors they undertake. In each field they choose to explore, they will prove themselves adept at both specific and systemic levels. The culminating goal in each case is the intellectual capacity for individual research or production. While disciplines have distinct curricula, there are substantial similarities in the knowledge and skills gained by their students; thus, each student will realize such competencies as close reading and interpretation; quantitative analysis; qualitative analysis; visual and spatial analysis; computational methods; scientific thinking; cogent writing; effective speaking and presentation; digital literacy and technological sophistication; understanding based in an analysis of multiple perspectives; experimentation; research; artistic production; and performance.
**Ethical Intelligence**
In connection with its roots in the Society of Friends, the College emphasizes social responsibility and active engagement with both the immediate and wider communities. This engagement requires cultivating an awareness of one’s own and others’ values and perspectives as well as an understanding of the forces that have shaped them. Through this practice, students will develop such qualities as personal responsibility; interpersonal understanding; intellectual rigor; concern for social justice for our local and global communities; and stewardship of the environment.

**Personal Development and Community Interaction**
Living in a residential liberal arts college and participating in academic and extra-curricular activities with others from diverse backgrounds promotes personal growth, meaningful relationships and community development. The academic realm features small classes with an emphasis on discussions and group projects. Outside of the academic program, students will have opportunities to participate and take leadership roles in a wide variety of activities including athletics, student government, social action, culture, and recreation. This emphasis on participation and interaction with others is intended to promote understanding of differences; settling conflicts constructively and through non-violent means; resilience, self-reliance, and agency; initiative, innovativeness and entrepreneurship; leadership skills and teamwork; and a balance of pride and humility in accomplishment.